

ANTIQUARIAN NOTES:

MAINLY OF MEN AND MATTERS

CONNECTED WITH THE

CHURCHES

ON THE ROLL OF THE

NATIONAL CONFERENCE.

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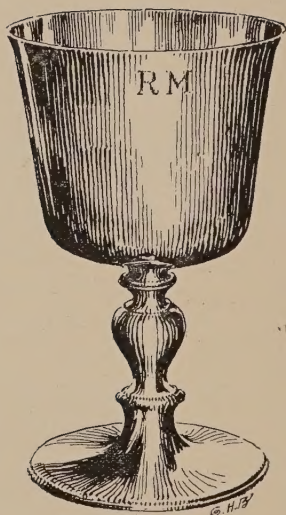
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CHOWBENT CHAPEL.

"MORT" CUP,
1652-3.

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Atherton : Chowbent Chapel.

The "Mort" cup here pictured is one of the two silver vessels which Robert Mort, of Wharton Hall, Little Hulton, Lancs., Esquire, gave to this congregation. He was, wrote the late Thomas H. Hope, *the warm, personal friend and benefactor of James Wood, the Chowbent minister, silenced in 1662, and who is mentioned by Adam Martindale.* It stands $6\frac{3}{4}$ inches tall, was assayed in London, 1652-3, and the initials are in legible pounced letters.

This sketch of it was made in 1896 by Mr. George H. Burgess.

The Moravian Chapel at Haverfordwest.

Amidst the many interesting objects of which historic Haverfordwest, the capital of "Little England beyond Wales," can boast, the old Moravian Chapel on St. Thomas's Green ought not to be overlooked by the passing stranger. The little group of buildings stands opposite to the entrance of St. Thomas's Church at the highest point of the town, and consists of parsonage, chapel, and enclosed burying-ground. They are simple, unpretending structures of the eighteenth century, and their old-world appearance has not been improved by a recent covering of grey stucco. On knocking at the entrance door I found to my regret that the pastor was absent from home, but a friendly maidservant conducted me over the severe little chapel with its tall pulpit, high pews, and large timepiece. Adjoining the chapel is the burying-ground of the Unitas Fratrum, a green little pleasaunce, surrounded by walls and edged with bay and laurel bushes, but little changed in aspect since the distant days when Bishop John Gambold, during the last three weary years of his career, was wont here "to walk most days till he was ready to drop." In the centre of the turf, set amidst a number of similar stones, is the flat slab inscribed with his name, a very

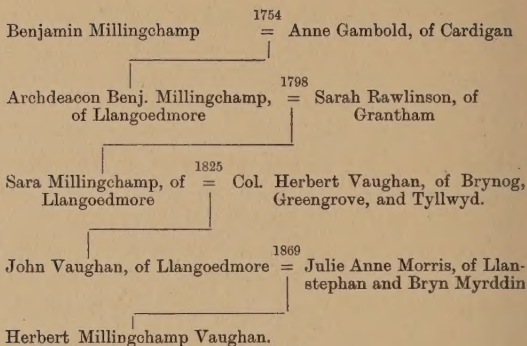
simple yet withal suitable memorial to that modest but brilliant scholar and ecclesiastic, who had been the intimate friend of the Wesleys, of Selina, Countess of Huntingdon, and of Count Zinzendorf, "that true servant of God." Gambold's gentle yet somewhat morbid personality seemed to me to pervade this peaceful spot upon the breezy heights of the Green. The little chapel, the verdant but flower-less cemetery, the old-fashioned rambling pastor's house, all spoke eloquently of his last days of sickness and enforced idleness, before his passing to the other life (for which his own human existence on earth had been one long period of anxious preparation), on September 13th, 1771. It is, indeed, a fit place to inspire with solemn yet hopeful thoughts, and there arose to my mind, involuntarily, some lines from one of the Moravian Bishop's own exquisite but mystical lyrics :—

" Oh, what is Death ? 'Tis life's last shore,
Where vanities are vain no more ;
When all pursuits their goal obtain,
And life is all retouched again ;
Where in their bright result shall rise
Thoughts, virtues, friendships, griefs, and joys."

HERBERT MILLINGCHAMP VAUGHAN.

June 23rd, 1906.

[The writer, whose work on "The Last of the Royal Stuarts, Henry Stuart, Cardinal Duke of York," has just appeared, is connected with the Gambold family :—



John Gambold, 1711—1771, “bishop of the Unitas Fratrum,” is the subject of one of the 800 odd lives contributed by the Rev. Alx: Gordon, M.A., to the *Dic. Nat. Biog.* He says: “In October, 1742, he resigned his living [Stanton-Harcourt, Oxfordshire], having been for some little time with the Moravians in London. He was admitted a member of their society in November, while teacher in a boarding-school at Broadoaks, Essex. . . . Gambold never had an enemy, but he made few friends. . . . He draws his own picture in the character of Claudius, the Roman soldier of his drama. . . . Many of his hymns have become widely known.”

The Moravian Register of births, baptisms, and burials was begun at Haverfordwest in 1763, and is continuous to 1837, when J. Strancker deposited it with the Registration Commissioners. It is now in the General Registry, Somerset House, and is numbered “Non-Parochial, Pembroke, 13, St. Thomas’s Green, Moravian.”

On the evening of Sunday, the 15th August, 1897, the editor, at the invitation of the congregation, conducted worship in the

Moravian Chapel, Pendine, near Laugharne, where Bishop Gambold preached his last sermon away from Haverfordwest, in May, 1759, "when he settled the little society there."—G.E.E.]

Tavistock: The Abbey Chapel.

In the Refectory of the once stately Abbey, dedicated to St. Mary the Virgin and St. Rumon, there has continually worshipped, from 1662, that nonconforming congregation of which the Rev. Thomas Larkham, M.A., of Jesus College, Cambridge, was founder and first minister. The building was granted to him by William Russell (1613—1700), the first Earl of Bedford, and is still the property of the house of Russell, the congregation occupying it at a nominal rent under leases. In 1525 a printing press was set up in the Abbey, and thence issued "The Boke of Confort called in laten *Boetius* de consolatione philosophie. Translated into *Englesse* tonge." And at the End thus, "Here endeth the boke of Confort called in latyn *Boecius* de consolatione phil. Empremented in the exempt Monastery of *Tavestock* in *Denshire* by me *Thomas Rycharde*, Monk of the said Monastery. To the instant desyre of the ryght worshipful Esqwyer Mayster *Robert Langdon*, Anno D' MDXXV. *Deo gratias . . . Robertus Ꝁ Langdon.*" This

Refectory is now about the only portion of the Abbey left standing. Larkham fitted it up with bookshelves, and used it both as his library and meeting-house. His Diary, which lets in a flood of light relating to the foundation of the congregation, was edited, and published in 1871, by the Rev. Wm. Lewis, minister of the Congregational Church, Cockermouth, of which town Larkham's son, George (M.A. of Trinity College, Cambridge), was the ejected minister. A photograph of a page of this Diary is to be seen in Tavistock Parish Church, where the writer's body was buried, on the 23rd December, 1669, in a grave provided by the Earl of Bedford, in a part of the Church which belonged to his lordship's family. His portrait hangs in the town library. He was married at Shobrooke on the 22nd June, 1622, to Patience, dau. of Geo. Wilson, school-master of Crediton: of her, the husband, in his diary exclaims:—

*Dec. 13th, 1758. O my poor rocky untoward wife!
O my unsuitableness to her! Lord help!*

Henry Flamanck, third minister of the congregation, 1688—1692, is all probability commemorated by the two silver Communion mugs, which bear the initials M.F., and are said to have been given by the Flamanck family. Jacob Saundercock, his co-minister and successor, began the existing register in 1692, the year of

Flamanck's death. From its pages the following particulars are taken :—

*A List of those baptized since my coming to Tavistock.
Jacob Sandercock. N.B. The year is supposed to begin
from that we commonly call New Year's Day.*

Sandercock makes his first entry on the 19th September, 1692. Between 1693 and 1710, eleven children were born to him and his wife *Sarah*, their names as entered being *Mary*, 1693; *Sarah*, 1695; *Mary* (2), 1697; *John*, 1699; *Christian*, 1700; *Jacob*, 1702; *Edward*, 1703; *James*, 1705; *Ann*, 1706; *James* (2), 1709; *William*, 1710.

Mr. John Fox, of Plymouth, contemporary and friend of Archbishop Secker, in his MSS.,* has a biographical sketch of Sandercock, "by marriage some relation of my mother." In his "usual sarcastic style"—to use Jerom Murch's words—Fox writes that Sandercock (whose mother was "an honest old creature, made up of devotion, superstition, bigotry, and ignorance . . . so very holy, so nasty, and stunk so much of tobacco, that I [Fox] always hated her") was "a very zealous promoter of the assembly held twice yearly at Exeter. He found great emolument both to body and purse by giving his regular attendance." Zealous promoter and regular attender he assuredly was. The Minutes, how-

* Preserved at the Plymouth Public Library: Extracts printed in *Monthly Reformer*, 1821, var. pp.

ever, have something to say on the financial subject. Sandercock is present regularly; was Moderator in 1703, 1715, and 1725; brought into the Fund, during the last five years of his life, the sum of £22 16s. 2½d.; and was voted from it, in 1727, two' guineas, and the same sum in the year following, and that only *if the Fund will bear it.*†

Fox was certainly an amiable biographer of his "Cousin Sandercock," who "did not think it a sin to be merry and affable . . . yet was the most dull, drowsy, disagreeable man in the pulpit I ever heard in my life."

To resume extracts from the register:—

N.B. The Rev. Mr. Saundercock died 24 December, 1729.

Peter Jillard, his successor, enters from the 9th August, 1730, to the 19th November, 1741. To him and his wife *Dorothy* were born, *Peard*, 1731; *Anne*, 1733; *Margaret*, 1736; and *Elizabeth*, 1738.

The entries of the next minister are those of

Children baptized by me Samuel Merivale, after my ordinatn. at Tavistock, 23 Augt., 1744.

He enters down to the 4th July, 1762; then from the 20th November, 1762, to the 28th July, 1771, come those of

Children baptized by me Bernard Dowdell.

† Cf. MS. Minutes, Dr. Williams's Library, Gordon Square.

Theophilus Edwards, *ordained at Tavistock on Wednesday, 15th July, 1772*, enters to the 22nd December, 1793. He records the baptisms of

Elizabeth Parr, dau. of Theophilus and Susanna Edwards, b. 22 July, 1785.

William Parr, s. — do. — b. 13 Augt., 1787, d. 25 Dec., 1790.

Finally come the entries of William Evans, whose Tavistock ministry extended from 1794 to 1841. He deposited the book, in 1837, with the Registration Commissioners. On the 10th March, 1806, he was married to Anna Partridge, of Taunton. They had issue:—

Sarah Anna and Mary Anna, b. 28 Feb., 1808.

Louisa Rachel, b. 6 July, 1809.

Rachel Partridge, b. 28 Dec., 1812.

William John, b. 10 March, 1814.

James, b. 10 July, 1816.

Colyton : George's Meeting.

The following extracts from the registers of Colyton and Branscombe are kindly sent by Mr. A. J. P. Skinner, honorary parish clerk of Colyton, whose archæological knowledge, and researches into West Country matters are of ever increasing service to his brother antiquaries:

JOHN ROSEWELL

was minister of the congregation from 1705 to 1711 or 1712, after which he "preached for the remainder of his days in another house [at Colyton] to a small portion of the congregation who adhered to him. On his death some of them turned Baptists, and Mr. Fisher, one of their number, and a tradesman in the town, was their minister. It was not very long, however, before the little society was dissolved."* The story of Rosewell and the congregation's trouble with him is fully told in "Colytonia,"† where it is said that there is "no entry of death or of burial in Colyton parish register." This Mr. Skinner corrects. He says:—

I send you some entries copied from the register which may interest you, as I take it they refer to this John Rosewell.

1702. Anna Rosewell, bur. the xi of february.

1706. Mary Rosewell, bur. the vii March.

1708. John, s. Mr. John Rosewell, bur. xxix June.

1722. Mr. John Rosewell, bur. the 18th of September.

1724. Thomas Tilman, wedded to Elizabeth Rosewell, Jany. 19.

* Cf. *English Presbyterian*, 1834, p. 182.

† pp. 10—14.

JOSHUA TOULMIN

was minister here from 1761 to 1765, when he removed to Taunton, where he remained until 1803, when he was chosen one of the two ministers of the New Meeting, Birmingham, Dr. Priestley's old congregation. His history of Taunton is an invaluable work. His daughter Jane, b. at Colyton, met with a tragic death, the particulars being set forth with much detail in the Branscombe parish register, where her body was buried on the 4th May, 1798. Mr. Skinner says:—*I send you extracts from entry in the Branscombe registers; I have gone all through them. They are full of amusing details in many cases, and of tragic events in others, especially Vicar Puddicombe's entries:—*

Jane Toulmin, age 25, dau. of the Rev. Joshua Toulmin, a dissenting minister of Taunton in the co. of Somerset, and Jane his wife (dau. of Saml. and Sarah Smith of Taunton). She was found drowned under the cliffs on that part of the shore called Branscombe Cove. d. May 1st; bur. May 4th, 1798.

Then follow the details, which, writes Mr. Skinner, is one of Vicar Puddicombe's long entries, occupying half a page of the register. The facts in it are:—

She had been on a visit at — Sweets Esqre. of — in the parish of Gittisham, who married her sister. An

undoubted case of horrible self-destruction. She had been for a long time in a low, melancholy state of mind. One night, unknown to any one, she left her sister's house without six pence in her pocket, disguised in the servant's clothes, so that she should not be known. After wandering about some days, being seen at Beer, she was found dead on Branscombe shore. She put the servant's petticoat over her own frock.

The event is alluded to by the poet Coleridge, who, writing to the Rev. John Prior Estlin, on Monday, 14th May, 1798, from Stowey, says:—

I suppose you must have heard that his daughter, in a melancholy derangement, suffered herself to be swallowed up by the tide on the sea coast, between Sidmouth and Bere. These events cut cruelly into the hearts of old men; but the good Dr. Toulmin bears it like the true, practical Christian—there is indeed a tear in his eye, but THAT tear is lifted up to the Heavenly Father.†

† Cf. Unpublished Letters from Samuel Taylor Coleridge, communicated by Henry Arthur Bright to Philobiblon Society.



